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March 15, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 130 – February 2018
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On February 1, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) and CPG held a teleconference to discuss the Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG) meeting arrangements for the scheduled February 28 and March 1 meetings.
- On February 5, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to discuss Upper 9-mile Interim Remedy Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) and Remedial Alternatives (RAS).
- On February 9, Region 2, CPG and Region 2 and CPG consultants held a meeting to discuss Feasibility Study (FS) modeling.
- On February 13, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference regarding CAG meeting discussions.
- On February 26, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to discuss running the Google Earth LPR Flyover.
- On February 28, CPG representatives participated in a tour of the upper 9 miles of the LPRSA with the EPA's CSTAG, Region 2 members and their contractors



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Correspondence

- On February 1, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails regarding arrangements for a driving tour of the upper 9 miles of the Passaic River for the CSTAG participants.
- On February 2, CPG provided Region 2 with an updated schedule for the delivery of specific sections and appendices of the revised Draft 17-mile Remedial Investigation (RI) Report.
- On February 2, CPG provided revised Draft RI Report Section 6 to Region 2.
- On February 6, CPG provided files related to the bioaccumulation model to Region 2.
- On February 6, CPG provided Response to Comments (RTCs) to Region 2 for Draft RI Report Sections 6, 7, 10 and Appendices G, I and J.
- On February 9, CPG provided a presentation, proposed RAOs and RAs for the CSTAG meeting on February 28 and March 1 to Region 2.
- On February 12, CPG provided presentation materials from the February 9 FS Modeling teleconference to Region 2.
- On February 12, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails to confirm arrangements for the February 28 CSTAG tour of the LPR and March 1 meeting.
- On February 14, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails regarding computer hardware and model run times.
- On February 14, CPG uploaded Appendix O of the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report to Region 2's SharePoint site.
- On February 15, CPG delivered the January Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On February 18, CPG uploaded Appendix H of the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report to Region 2's SharePoint site.
- On February 21, Region 2 provided CPG an agenda for the March 1 CSTAG meeting and provided dates and times for a potential call to discuss the Google Earth Flyover presentation.
- On February 22, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails regarding CPG participation in the CSTAG meeting.
- On February 26, CPG provided a list of in-person and call-in participants for the CSTAG meeting to Region 2.
- On February 26 and 27, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails regarding details for the driving tour of the LPR and Google Earth Flyover presentation.
- On February 28, CPG provided the presentation for the March 1 CSTAG stakeholder meeting to Region 2.

Work

- CPG continued work to address Region 2's comments on the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report and Model Appendices.
- CPG continued work on calibration of the revised LPR/Newark Bay CFT model.



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- CPG continued work on revision of the LPR Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG continued work on revision of Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG prepared proposed Upper 9-mile RAOs and RAs.
- CPG responded to Region 2 comments and questions on the Upper 9-mile Plan.
- CPG prepared a tour plan, Google Map "Flyover" and stakeholder presentation for the March 1 CSTAG meeting.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue work on the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report and Model Appendices in response to Region 2 comments. The Executive Summary, Summary, Conclusions, and References Sections of the revised Draft RI Report and Appendix P (Bioaccumulation Modeling) have been partially revised, but additional collaboration with Region 2 is required to complete their revision.
- CPG will continue calibration of the revised LPR/Newark Bay CFT model and continue to work with HDR to complete the calibration.
- CPG will continue revising the LPR Bioaccumulation Model pursuant to Region 2 comments.
- CPG will continue work on Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG will continue preliminary identifications of remedial alternatives for the upper 9miles.

(d) <u>Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.</u>

- Feasibility Study (FS) Region 2 and the CPG are currently discussing refocus of the FS to the upper 9 miles and accelerating its completion and met via teleconference on January 4, 2018 and a meeting on February 9, 2018.
- Other Documents There are number of reports and technical memos (both original and revised submissions) that have been submitted to Region since 2011 that the CPG is awaiting either approval or Region 2's comments. These reports include:
 - 1. Upstream Reference Benthic Data Report submitted August 2013
 - 2. Background Sediment Data Report submitted October 2013



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If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard Potter

CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel

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